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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/740,584	12/18/2000	Jeffrey Morgan Alden	GP-301022	6367
7590	01/04/2005		EXAMINER	
General Motors Corporation Legal Staff Mail Code 482-C23-B21 P.O. Box 300 Detroit, MI 48265-3000			BAUMEISTER, BRADLEY W	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2815	
DATE MAILED: 01/04/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/740,584

EXAMINER

ART UNIT      PAPER

041218

DATE MAILED:

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Commissioner for Patents

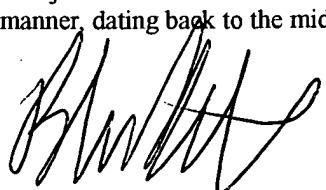
The reply filed on 9/29/04 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s); See 37 CFR 1.111:

a. Claim 8 previously set forth all of the limitations of claims 1-3, including the next-to-last limitation, "identifying isolated cycles in the sub-model that are a series of entities that depend on themselves;" (see e.g., the version of the claims set forth in the preliminary amendment). The present amendment changed claim 8 so as to omit this entire limitation, but did not include any brackets or strikethroughs as is required for amendments. It is not reasonably clear whether this change to the claim 8 was inadvertent, or alternatively, whether the omission of the brackets/strikethroughs was inadvertent.

b. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be bona fide, applicant is given ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

For the sake of compact prosecution, the Examiner notes that at least claims 1 and 6, as presently set forth, read on creating an electronic spreadsheet (using Excel or LOTUS 1-2-3, for example) with various cells that contain numerical constants (data entries) and other cells that contain formulas (calculation entities), and temporarily replacing at least one cell's formula with a numerical constant to see the effect on at least one particular column's or row's sum-data or product-data cell (output entities), (and then changing it back to the pre-existing formula before saving changes/updates, if desired). "Viewing the display of such a modified spreadsheet" reads on the last limitation of claim 1: "visually analyzing changes in the sub-model..." Restated, "changes in the sub-model" may be changes in at least one of the spreadsheet's values or displayed numeric characters. The claims do not require that the change be, for example, in the size of a displayed bubble or in the color of a displayed box. Upon further prosecution on the merits, unless Applicant explains how the claims are distinguishable, at least claims 1 and 6 will potentially be rejected under this interpretation based upon the Examiner's personal creation and use of electronic spreadsheets in this manner, dating back to the mid 1990s.

SHADLEY BAUMEISTER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

  
B. William Baumeister  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 2815